



CREATING A LEGACY: BRISBANE OLYMPICS 2032

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With Brisbane committed to delivering the first ‘climate positive’ Games in the history of the Olympics and Paralympics, there is much to consider to achieve what will be a benchmark not only for future Games but development across the globe.

As we head into uncharted territory, it is clear ‘business as usual’ won’t deliver on the city’s ambitions for a carbon-positive games and create a legacy.

To guide industry conversation, Buchan recently hosted two significant events in Brisbane on *Creating a Legacy: Brisbane Olympics 2032*.

Senior industry and government Olympics stakeholders gathered over lunch for a high-level discussion moderated by strategist and urban thinker James Tuma to consider lessons learned from Tokyo 2020; ‘new norms’ for Brisbane 2032; ‘climate positive’ development solutions; and how we truly create a legacy that ensures a strong commercial future for Brisbane as an international city.

The lunch was followed by an evening of conversation attended by around 150 clients, consultants and industry peers with presentations from recently aligned internationally renowned design practices Buchan, with its extensive local knowledge, sports specialist HKS and sustainable construction leader Nikken Sekkei.

Collaboration is key

Brisbane-based Buchan principal and Precincts Sector Lead, **Phil Schoutrop** says Brisbane 2032 will be a very different Olympic and Paralympic Games to any we have yet seen.

“With no ‘Olympic Park’, the city and the region will be the venue, which will mean we need to challenge design thinking beyond our sporting venues. We need to consider how venues play a part in the wider transformation agenda and be more than just ‘great facilities’.

Phil believes there is no one practice in the world that can deliver on this, and that partnerships across the industry are essential to achieving the extraordinary.

“Collaboration will be key to successfully delivering on the ambitious goal of a climate positive Olympics and leaving a lasting legacy, which will be about much broader social, economic, and environmental benefits being realised across multiple geographies.”

“To understand what legacy we want to create, we need to be thinking well beyond the Olympics, and about how we design spaces that are relevant to a whole new group of Queenslanders and visitors to Queensland.”

Thinking beyond 2032

Brisbane-based director of HKS Australia and New Zealand **Andrew Colling** agrees saying when it comes to setting us up for a successful Games and beyond, we need to be thinking about where we want our city to be in 2042, and work backwards from there.

“Being climate positive is a big transition where our business model, our operating model, our behaviour, how we build, how we use facilities, and how we as businesses work with each other will change.”

“We’re a lot more conscious about our impact on the environment. It’s no longer just a matter of not putting carbon in the atmosphere, it’s about taking carbon out of the atmosphere and how we do this will evolve over the next two decades.”

Andrew highlights the stadium experience should be intrinsically linked to the people who most often use it.

“To design a Brisbane stadium, we need to understand what it means to be a Brisbane local now and in 20 years’ time. The answers will translate into a place where we feel at home and that expresses who we are to those who visit.”

He says with Queensland’s natural affinity with timber, and it having the lowest embodied carbon of all mainstream building materials, timber is likely to feature prominently in the climate positive strategy for the Brisbane Olympics, including in our stadium design.

Lessons from Tokyo 2020

Hiroshi Miyakawa is Executive Design Fellow of Nikken Sekkei and Principal Architect of the Ariake Gymnastics Centre, now Ariake GYM-EX.

Miyakawa shared lessons learned from the Tokyo Games about how we can create enhanced environmental outcomes and sees the Olympics as a rare opportunity for Queensland to ‘present its difference’ through design to the world.

Climate-positive design demands new thinking, creativity and technical innovation. The Ariake Gymnastics Centre designed for Tokyo 2020 exemplifies this with timber offering multiple benefits in terms of carbon efficiency.

Inspired by traditional Japanese architecture, the Centre features one of the world’s largest timber roofs, spanning 90m. It was designed as a temporary Olympics venue for the Tokyo 2020 Games with removable stands to allow for its transformation into a permanent exhibition hall.

“Timber is a beautiful material that resonates with Brisbane’s sub-tropical climate and vernacular architecture. Exploring its application for the 2032 Olympics, based on our knowledge and experience, has exciting potential and is something the Buchan-HKS-Nikken Sekkei alliance is committed to.”

